

NEBRASKANS SUPPORT A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, next week there will likely be a debate in the other body over amending the U.S. Constitution to require a balanced budget. The Nebraskans I represent overwhelmingly support this measure. In my view, a balanced budget amendment is vital to Nebraska's working families, carrying on admirably under the weight of a massive national debt, endless deficits, and big government.

As you may recall, in the first month of the new Congress the House of Representatives passed a balanced budget amendment by a vote of 300 to 132, putting in place the centerpiece of the Republican agenda. Attempts to amend the Constitution to require a balanced budget date back to the 1700's. President Ronald Reagan pushed throughout his tenure for such a measure but was unable to pass it through the Democratic-dominated House and the Senate.

I pledged to work hard for a balanced budget amendment and did as I said I would do by voting in favor of it. I made a promise to the people of Nebraska and I delivered. The balanced budget amendment will change the way our government works, forcing Washington to balance its books.

Enforcing a balanced budget on Washington is not about numbers it is about people. It is about parents with kids in Elkhorn High, lying awake at night desperate to figure out a way to put them through college. It is about a newlywed wife, dreaming of the curtains she would love to put in a new home in Omaha—then finding herself in tears because she knows she will never move in. It is about an idealistic Creighton University student giving up on studying, looking to a bottle or worse because he cannot figure out where he is going to find a job even if he gets straight A's. It is about my grandmother, in her 80's and still teaching school, worried about her security so as never to be a burden, even though she never could be to those of us who love her.

You know these people. You are worried about them, like I am. They live in Scottsbluff and Sarpy County, Plattsmouth and Papillion, South Omaha—and the South Bronx. They deserve a better future. And we can give it to them.

The deficits we are running today have crippled wage and job growth for America's families. According to the nonpartisan concord coalition, the average American family would be making at least \$15,000 a year more if we were not carrying the terrible burden of the Federal debt. For the hard working families I know in Nebraska, \$15,000 would make a huge difference.

Some say we should just balanced the budget, without putting in place any enforcement mechanism. Those people have not seen how Washington works. The have not seen Presidents willing to break promises for pure politics. They have not seen the first balanced budget in a generation, which we helped craft and pass, vetoed and misrepresented to get a leg up in the election. During

the budget stand-off, I worked hard to put together meetings between moderate Democrats and House Republican freshman to find common ground on the budget. As I encouraged each side to work together, it occurred to me that we were not the problem. The problem was that at the highest levels, no one would be forced to step onto the common ground we had found. For years now, Presidents and Congress have been unable to take that step because each could blame the other for the ultimate failure of the process.

Let us stop Washington's budget merry-go-round. It is high time we put some backbone in our institutions to give them the courage to face the tough choices we have laid out for the Nation. Our colleagues in the other body should pass the balanced budget amendment as we have in the House—for our families, and for our future.

TRIBUTE TO POLICE LT. ART BLAKEY

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share an article that appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on May 24, 1996, commemorating the heroic actions of Police Lt. Art Blakey in the performance of his duty to serve and protect the people of St. Paul.

Lieutenant Blakey should serve as a reminder to all of us the dedication and sacrifice our police officers make everyday on the job. These men and women who so valiantly serve our constituents deserve our full support and admiration.

I hope my colleagues will enjoy the following article:

NEIGHBORS HONOR HERO WOUNDED IN SHOOTOUT

(By Pat Burson)

Community leaders, law enforcement officers, neighbors and friends called Lt. Art Blakey a hero during a ceremony in his honor Thursday night in the heart of his Summit-University neighborhood in St. Paul.

It's not just that the off-duty sheriff's deputy was willing to put his life on the line after three masked men barged into a St. Paul VFW post and one began firing shots into the crowd.

It's also the simple things Blakey does every day.

"He's a husband and a father and a grandfather and a long-time contributing member to our community," said Nathaniel Khaliq, president of the St. Paul NAACP, which helped organized the tribute. "And in these days of black men being portrayed as being the source of many of society's problems and with many people saying we don't have an adequate number of role models, I think Art Blakey is certainly one we can hold high for others to see."

Blakey was wounded in the club shootout, hit in the lower torso by the gunman's bullet. He just returned to work this week.

The shooting happened April 13, his 24th wedding anniversary.

He had walked the block from his home to the VFW post and was ordering juice at the back of the room when the masked men entered.

When one began shooting, Blakey identified himself and ordered the man to drop the

weapon. Instead the gunman pulled the trigger, and a bullet pierced the deputy's lower torso. Blakey returned fire, hitting the man twice in the stomach.

Three suspects have been charged in connection with the incident.

On Thursday night, Blakey sat in St. Peter Claver Catholic Church with his wife, Carolyn, and family members as about 125 well-wishers—including state officials and local politicians, law enforcement officers, local block club members and community leaders—showered him with plaques, flowers, citations and words of praise, gratitude and support.

Blakey was the first recipient of the Chief's Award for Valor from St. Paul Police Chief William Finney.

When Blakey's turn came, he thanked a litany of supporters saying he was "just overwhelmed."

And a little unnerved by all the fuss.

"I just don't feel like I need to be patted on the back," Blakey said later. "Twenty-seven years ago, I took the oath to serve and protect. I continue to feel that way."

Khaliq, St. Paul NAACP president, said people are quick to honor those who die in action, but often forget to show their gratitude when the heroes survive. "We did this so he can see the appreciation of the community for what he did," said Khaliq, "and the community can see there are Art Blakeys among us that deserve the title of hero."

THE STANLEY FAMILY IS HONORED

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my friends, constituents, and a great Dallas family for being honored by the Dallas Division of State of Israel Bonds on Thursday evening, May 30, 1996. The Stanley family is being recognized for their dedicated accomplishments which exemplify Jewish consciousness through "Midor Lador"—"from generation to generation" embodying Jerusalem, the spiritual heart and soul of the Jewish people. They will be presented with the Jerusalem 3000 Peter Max Award.

Renee Stanley along with her late husband Paul, encouraged in their children an awareness of commitment to the local community as well as to the State of Israel. Many organizations benefit from the Stanley family efforts, including Temple Emanu-El, the Jewish Community Center, AIPAC, the American Jewish Congress, Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas, Dallas Center for Holocaust Studies and National Council of Jewish Women, Jewish Family Service, ADL, Simon Wiesenthal Center & Bet Hashoah Museum of Tolerance, National Holocaust Center in Washington, B'nai B'rith Kivtznich National Jewish Museum, and World Jewish Congress.

I wish to extend my congratulations to Renee, Rich, David, Marc, and Wendy, and Roger Stanley who have all worked to improve the quality of life for their fellow citizens in our community and in the world. Keep up the great work.